

the Indus Basin Development Fund from Colombo Plan appropriations and thus assist in the solution of a problem that has stood in the way of better relations between two of Canada's Commonwealth partners in Asia.

The Technical Assistance Programme of the Colombo Plan, under which Canada sends experts to various member countries and technicians and students from South and Southeast Asia are brought to Canada for training courses and study tours, continued to expand in 1959. During the year some 288 Colombo Plan trainees came to Canada to study in such fields as geology, public administration, agriculture, nuclear physics, forestry, fishing, medicine, mining, education, manufacturing and other specialized subjects. Seventeen Canadian experts were sent to Colombo Plan countries in South and Southeast Asia in 1959 to assist Asian countries with aircraft maintenance, statistics, engineering, teacher training, fishing, radiotherapy and nursing.

The annual meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan was held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, in November. In addition to reviewing Colombo Plan activities and surveying the tasks ahead in the economic development of South and Southeast Asia, the Committee decided that the Colombo Plan should be continued for another five years beyond 1961 and that before 1966 a further extension would be considered. It was also agreed at Jogjakarta to admit Singapore to full membership in the Plan.

Assistance to other Commonwealth Countries:

In 1959 the sum of \$500,000 was appropriated to initiate a programme of technical assistance to areas of the Commonwealth not covered by other Canadian assistance programmes, especially those in Africa. Ghana was the chief recipient of assistance under this arrangement. By the end of 1959, about 19 trainees from Ghana had been received in Canada and seven Canadian experts had been sent to that country.

In accordance with an announcement made at the time of the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference in Montreal in September 1958, Canada began a five-year programme of assistance to The West Indies, on which \$10 million is expected to be spent. The first major project to be undertaken as part of this programme is the construction of two ships for inter-island traffic. Agreement on the specifications for these ships was reached with The West Indies authorities in 1959 and contracts for their construction were let to Canadian shipyards. A number of Canadian experts and advisers were sent to The West Indies during the year, including a team to survey port and harbour requirements and experts in radio broadcasting, statistics, agriculture, and post office administration. Some 23 West Indian trainees came to Canada to study. Equipment and instructors were provided by Canada for a vocational training centre on the island of St. Kitts.

United Nations Assistance Programmes:

Although the greater part of its assistance to under-developed countries continued to be channelled through the Colombo Plan and other bilateral programmes, Canada also made substantial contributions to multilateral programmes of assistance under the auspices of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. The United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which provides experience, training facilities and technical knowledge to less-developed countries throughout